



**MEDIA STATEMENT OF THE
CURRENT SITUATION OF THE COVID-19 INFECTION
IN BRUNEI DARUSSALAM**

27 March 2020

1. As of today, 02 Syaban 1441 / 27 March 2020, the Ministry of Health would like to inform the public of **1 new case** of COVID-19 infection in the country, bringing the **total number of cases in Brunei Darussalam to 115 people.**
 - Case 115, a local man aged 39 years old returned to Brunei Darussalam on 21 March 2020 from United Kingdom with his family on-board flight Royal Brunei BI004 (seated at 29C). He started developing symptoms (fever, headache, flu and nausea) on 26 March 2020. This case is unrelated to Case 88 who returned to Brunei Darussalam on-board the same flight (seated 10K).
2. The Ministry of Health would like to inform the public that the result of the case investigation for Case 103 that was mentioned on 24 March 2020 is found to have an epidemiological link with Case 47.

3. The Ministry of Health would also like to inform the public that *Alhamdulillah*, today, six cases treated at the National Isolation Centre have recovered and are allowed to return home. Therefore, a total of 11 people have recovered so far and are allowed to return home. This means that 104 cases are still being treated at the National Isolation Centre, and out of that number, one patient is in critical condition and needing respiratory assistance; and one patient previously mentioned yesterday is still in critical condition, needing respiratory as well as heart / lung machine (ECMO) assistance, which brings the total number of patients in critical condition to two people. Meanwhile, three others are under close monitoring and the rest are in stable condition.

4. The Ministry of Health would also like to inform that as of today, there are currently 1,140 individuals who are undergoing quarantine, in accordance to the Infectious Diseases Act (Chapter 204). Meanwhile, 874 individuals have completed their quarantine and are in stable condition. Since early January 2020, a total of 4,994 laboratory tests for COVID-19 have been conducted.

5. The Ministry of Health would like to remind the public that even though there is a decrease in the total number of new cases reported today, precautionary and control measures still needs to be continued. This is because there are still a number of citizens and permanent residents in

the county that are undergoing quarantine and self-isolation. In addition, the global situation of COVID-19 is still alarming with the United States of America and some European countries currently facing very large numbers of cases and deaths.

6. In relation to that, the Ministry of Health highly appreciates the continuous cooperation by all hotel and facility managers in the provision of isolation sites through the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism, as well as the National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC) for those who are instructed to undergo mandatory self-isolation upon arriving in the country after travelling internationally. The cooperation, commitment and sacrifice provided by the operators and owners of hotels, apartments and hostels in ensuring the success of the Government's efforts to control the COVID-19 outbreak in the country is exceptionally noble and invaluable.

7. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Health would like to remind the public to continue to practice social or physical distancing while in shops, *tamu* and banks, including when using the ATM machines, especially on payday tomorrow and the following days. Anyone who feels unwell should avoid going to crowded places with a lot of people. Whenever possible, use established facilities such as online banking.

8. In this regard, mall and shop owners are advised to regulate the entry of the general public by limiting the number of customers entering their premise and setting up distancing signage of at least 1 meter at certain places such as payment counters and so on. This is in addition to conducting body temperature checks and providing hand sanitisers at entry areas as well as ensuring that all trolleys and shopping baskets are kept clean at all times.

9. In addition, the Ministry of Health would also like to emphasise to individuals who have been issued the self-isolation order to immediately notify their superior or employer of where they work. Anyone who is found not to have informed their superior or employer, and is still working during the isolation period, the Ministry of Health will not hesitate to take legal action under the Infectious Diseases Act (Chapter 204).

10. For further information and latest updates, members of the public can visit the official website of the Ministry of Health at **www.moh.gov.bn** or by contacting **the Health Advice Line 148 (operating 24-hours)** or through the web application **healthinfo.gov.bn**.

11. In this instance, the Ministry of Health would like to urge all users of the Health Advice Line 148 to be prudent in the use of the service provided. The Health Advice Line 148 is provided to offer health advices to alleviate public concerns on the COVID-19 outbreak. However, some callers are found to abuse this service. Prank calls will only hinder those who really need the health advice and assistance. Therefore, use the service provided wisely and as best as possible.

- **END** -

Reference : KK/PR/2

Date : 02 Syaaban 1441H / 27 March 2020